

more important than this is the Old Testament history, ~~now~~ a knowledge and understanding of which enables us to understand God's revelation better. It enables us to understand God's revelation better.

I have three subheads under this to mention. Small "a". The meaning of the words often is made clear as you know something of the history and the background, something of how these words were used before, The meaning of the words in important passages becomes clear from the understanding of the Old Testament. The second, the meaning of allusions. Think for a minute what that means. You pick up a book of speeches or a newspaper in America a few years ago and it has many, many references to Hitler in it, comparatively few are found today. A person who has never heard of Hitler might have a hard job understanding what is meant by a great part of the statement in our papers or by the speeches of one of our presidents. Not only that many of other things. Ten years ago if somebody had said, "~~What~~ "Remember Pearl Harbor". They would have said, "What do you mean?" That's a pretty place, but why remember it? There are lots of other pretty places to remember." It meant absolutely nothing. If I were to say to you today, "Remember the Maine", I wonder how many of you would know what it means. And yet you pick up a newspaper about 1898 and that would be the ~~first~~ first thing you would run into, Remember the Maine. It was a battleship that was ~~wither~~ sunk by the Spanish or which had an accident and an explosion sunk it. ~~It~~ I don't think they know yet what it was, but it had a great deal to do with the Spanish-American War. It was a very important slogan and people constantly referred to it. It meant a great deal and then it was gone. It is forgotten now except as you read a book of history. But something written at the time is difficult to understand without a knowledge of it. The Bible is not a book which was written in a vacuum. It is a book which was written not simply that people hundreds of years later would have something valuable to read, but in order that the people right at the time when it was written would have an answer to their problems and their needs and that